

APPENDIX A: ISSUES, QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FROM PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public involvement process begins with a mailing of postcards to all the residents within and directly adjacent to the proposed treatment sites to notify them of public meetings about the proposed project. Postcards were mailed out the week of January 11, 2012. A notification letter was also mailed to public officials on January 11 and January 14, 2012. All questions, answers and comments are recorded from the public meetings. Contact information is also provided at the meetings to allow the public to comment by letter, phone or email during the public comment period. All comments received after the public meetings are recorded and a response given to the resident by phone, email, letter or a combination of the above.

In addition to mailings to residents and public officials, additional means of notification were used. IDNR press releases, public notices in local newspapers, the IDNR, Div. of Entomology and Plant Pathology website and Twitter were used to provide information and updates on public meetings. Notification of the public meetings was posted to the IDNR, Div. of Entomology and Plant Pathology website on January 4, 2012.

All questions, comments and concerns from the meetings, letters, emails and phone calls received during the public comment period (Ending Friday, February 24, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. EST) are summarized in this appendix.

At each of the public meetings (Table 1), representatives from the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology presented the proposed gypsy moth project and answered and received questions and comments. The presentation explained:

- the life cycle, feeding habits and hosts of gypsy moth;
- the identification of gypsy moth;
- survey methods;
- gypsy moth impacts and damage to the trees and forest;
- selection of proposed sites;
- selection of the treatment options;
- the timing and application of treatments;
- boundaries of the treatment sites with maps;
- the public comment period and decision process.

Both during and following the presentation, questions and comments were taken, answered and discussed with the people attending the meetings.

A representative from Purdue University also assisted in answering questions and concerns that were presented by the public.

The questions and comments received during and after the public meetings were categorized into four main issues:

- Human health and safety;
- Nontarget effects and environmental effects;
- Economic and political impacts;
- Likelihood of success of the proposed project, and the treatment options proposed.

ISSUES

Human health and safety

The questions and comments received from the public regarding human health and safety were in four general areas:

- the risks from gypsy moth caterpillars
- the use and risks of Btk and mating disruption
- the decision and notification process for the implementation of the project
- the time of application of Btk and mating disruption

A citizen at a Lake County meeting stated that he works with hay and had experienced some itching, and that he had oak trees on his property. It was replied that the itching was probably not due to gypsy moth caterpillars, but that a DNR representative would take a look at his property for signs of gypsy moth infestation.

It was asked if the mating disruption posed a health concern for people, and if there was any effect on people with sensitive immune systems. It was replied that mating disruption does not pose a health concern for people, including those with compromised immune systems, and that the treatment uses an insect pheromone.

One person asked what the difference was between Btk versus Foray. It was explained that Foray is a brand name of a product which contains Btk.

It was asked how a resident could find out if their house was in the treatment area. It was replied that the DNR representative would meet with them after the meeting and look together at the maps.

One citizen stated that they were grateful that the public meeting was being conducted, but asked if there was a concern regarding the mating disruption flakes. Other questions were asked regarding the safety of the mating disruption. It was stated that there was not a safety concern to people, that the meeting was given to inform the residents of the proposed treatment, and that only habitat areas would be treated.

Questions were asked if Btk would be used at any of the Lake County or Fulton County proposed sites. It was replied that Btk would not be used at any of those locations. It was also replied that Btk would only be used at the proposed site in Porter County.

It was asked if a resident supplied the name of a homeowner's association, if DNR would keep them informed about the timing of the treatment. It was replied yes.

It was asked if it will be announced when the treatments would occur. It was replied that another postcard mailing would be sent out to residents approximately two weeks prior to the anticipated treatment time frame.

One citizen thought that planes were only used for Btk treatments, and not for mating disruption treatments. It was explained that planes were used for both types of treatments.

It was asked if the treatments would occur in the early morning. It was replied that treatments would begin in early morning, weather permitting. Adverse weather conditions, such as rain or wind, would cause delays.

Nontarget effects and environmental effects

The questions and comments received from the public regarding nontarget effects and environmental effects were in two general areas:

- the effects of mating disruption and Btk to species other than gypsy moth
- the effects of mating disruption to the environment

It was asked if Btk affects butterflies. It was replied that DNR evaluates the proposed Btk sites for the Karner blue butterfly and other endangered butterfly species.

It was asked if the mating disruption pheromone breaks down over time. It was replied that it will last several months.

Economic and political impacts

It was stated by one citizen that the Indianapolis Blvd site will get worse since it is not being treated. It was replied that the citizen could put those concerns into their written comments on the proposed project.

It was asked why DNR was treating over the Briar Ridge site. It was replied that the proposed site had a population of gypsy moths found during the trapping survey that was appropriate for a mating disruption treatment.

Likelihood of success of the proposed project and the treatment options proposed

The question was asked as to how DNR would know if the mating disruption treatment was effective. It was stated that DNR would examine trap counts in next year's survey.

It was asked if the sites in Lake County were left untreated, how long it would take before populations would cause a problem. It was replied that populations have been present for a couple of years, and it may be five years or so before residents would notice a problem.

It was asked if Btk had been used in Lake County in past years. It was replied yes.

Questions were asked if there was something that a homeowner could do if they find egg masses. It was stated that DNR would like to be contacted if homeowners find egg masses. It was stated that homeowners could use Sun Oil, a vegetable based oil spray, to saturate the egg masses. It was explained that burlap banding could be used to monitor for caterpillars.

It was asked if the mating disruption pheromone was available for private use. It was stated that it was not available for private use.

It was asked if DNR ever supplied pheromone traps to homeowners. It was stated that DNR did not supply traps to homeowners.

It was asked how long the mating disruption flakes lasted on the trees. It was replied that the flakes are coated with a sticker which allows them to adhere to the leaves.

It was asked if the strange weather conditions this year will make a difference in the treatments. It was replied that the fluctuating weather conditions could affect the timing of the treatments.

Other questions and concerns

It was asked if gypsy moth caterpillars were the only ones that do ballooning. It was stated that there are other species which do ballooning.

It was asked how female adult gypsy moths move, if they don't fly. It was stated that the female moths crawl.

It was asked if the mating disruption pheromone will affect the reproduction of other moths. It was stated that it would only affect gypsy moth.

It was asked how far away a gypsy moth pheromone trap would attract males. It was replied that it was less than one mile.

Questions were asked regarding features on the maps being shown at the meetings, and responses were given to clarify information indicated on the maps.

It was asked how the treatment boundaries were determined. It was replied that they are determined based on trapping data and location of habitat.

It was asked how far apart traps were placed in the area of the Fulton County proposed sites. It was replied that there was a 500 meter delimit in the Rochester area, and then traps were placed on a two kilometer grid in other areas.

It was asked how long the adult gypsy moth lives. It was replied a couple of weeks.

In addition there was a question asked about the Emerald Ash Borer in Indiana.

Table 1. Date, time, and attendance of the public meetings for the proposed treatment sites by county. All meeting times are local times.

COUNTY	SITE	DATE	TIME	# Attending
Fulton	Rochester North Rochester NW Rochester South	February 1, 2012	6:00 PM ET	8
Lake	Briar Ridge Oak Savannah	February 7, 2012	6:30 PM CT	31
Lake	Briar Ridge Oak Savannah	February 8, 2012	6:30 PM CT	20
Porter	Cobbs Corner	January 31, 2012	6:30 PM CT	0
				59